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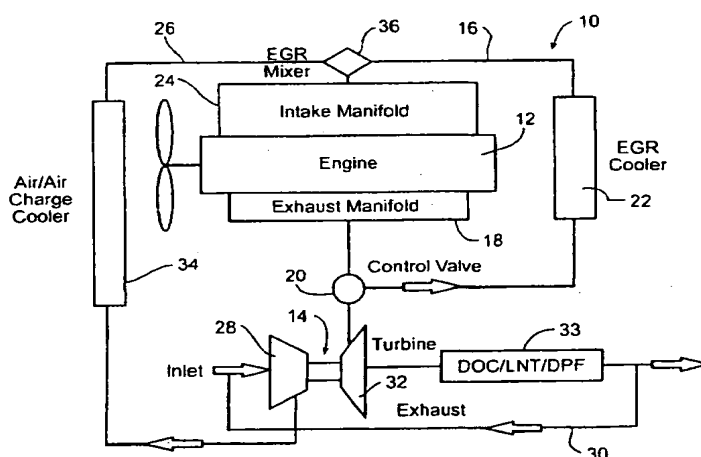
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(54) Title: DUAL AND HYBRID EGR SYSTEMS FOR USE WITH TURBOCHARGED ENGINE



(57) Abstract: EGR systems (10, 38, 72, 90, 104, 120, 156, 168, 200, 226, 254, 282, 300, 332) for an internal combustion engine (12, 40, 122, 170) configured to operate using multiple-staged turbochargers (76, 136, 174, 316), or a pair of single stage turbochargers (92, 94, 106, 108, 206, 218, 232, 238, 260, 266, 288, 334, 336), to provide exhaust gas recirculation to meet emissions requirements while not affecting engine performance. One or two EGR loops operating at low, intermediate, or high pressures may be employed. EGR exhaust gases may be taken directly from the exhaust manifold (18, 46, 130, 176, 202), or after the exhaust stream has passed through a turbocharger turbine (60, 180, 205, 230, 264, 286, 308, 334). EGR exhaust gases may be injected at an intermediate pressure between stages of a multiple stage turbocharger (76, 136, 174, 316), or alternatively between a low pressure turbocharger compressor (216, 248, 258, 340) and high pressure turbocharger (210, 248, 274, 338) compressor, before being boosted to a pressure high enough to ensure the desired mass flow to the engine and delivered to the intake manifold (24, 52, 128). Intake air may be pressurized prior to mixing with the EGR exhaust gases.

DUAL AND HYBRID EGR SYSTEMS FOR USE WITH TURBOCHARGED ENGINE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of the filing of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/425,933 entitled "Dual and Hybrid EGR Systems for Use With Turbocharged Engines", filed on November 13, 2002, and the specification thereof is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention (Technical Field):

The present invention relates generally to the field of gasoline and diesel-powered internal combustion engines that make use of exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) systems and, more particularly, to dual and hybrid EGR systems that are specially adapted for use with turbocharged internal combustion engines.

Description of Related Art:

EGR is a known method that is currently employed with internal combustion gasoline and diesel-powered engines for reducing NOx emissions. Conventional EGR systems work by taking a by-pass stream of engine exhaust gas from an engine exhaust manifold and directing the same to a control valve or an EGR valve. The EGR valve is designed and operated to provide a desired amount of exhaust gas for mixture with intake air and injection into the engine's induction system for subsequent combustion. The EGR valve regulates the amount of exhaust gas that is routed to the engine induction system based on engine demand.

The process of recirculating the exhaust gas insures that partially-oxidized NO_x becomes fully oxidized, thereby reducing smog producing partially-oxidized NO_x emissions. Accordingly,

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such convention EGR systems include exhaust by-pass tubing or piping, related plumbing and manifolding, and engine driven EGR pump (if further pressurizing is necessary), and an EGR control valve, all of which are ancillary components that are attached to the engine.

While such conventional EGR systems may be sufficient for meeting today's emissions regulations for certain application, future emission requirements will be more stringent and the current state of the EGR technology will not be able to meet such requirements. For example, starting in the year 2007, medium and heavy-duty on-highway diesel emissions regulations will require that the amount of nitrogen oxide gases (collectively known as NO_x) emitted be reduced by an order of magnitude (10x). Such reduction in emissions may possibly be achieved via EGR and/or by exhaust gas after-treatment.

When looking at turbocharged engine applications, such as in the case of a turbocharged diesel-powered engine, the use of these combined methods make it more difficult than ever to match the turbocharger operation to provide optimum engine performance while still maintaining the ability to provide sufficient EGR driving (i.e., negative engine ΔP) capability.

It is, therefore, desired that an improved EGR system be provided in a manner that is adapted for use in turbocharged engine applications to provide the same or improved engine performance characteristics, when compared to conventional EGR systems, while also meeting the increasingly stringent emission requirements described above.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is of an exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) system comprising an engine having an intake manifold and an exhaust manifold; a turbocharger with at least one compressor stage; a first exhaust gas bypass stream connected to receive exhaust gas upstream of the turbocharger; a first control valve connected in the first exhaust gas bypass stream to control the amount of exhaust gas received from the exhaust manifold; a second exhaust gas bypass stream connected to receive exhaust gas exiting the exhaust manifold through a turbine section of the turbocharger and combine the gas with an intake air stream to form an exhaust gas/air mixture that is directed into a first compressor stage of the turbocharger; and a second control valve connected within the second exhaust gas bypass stream upstream of a connection point with the intake air

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stream for controlling a relative amount of air and exhaust gas in the exhaust gas/air mixture routed to the first compressor stage of the turbocharger.

5 The exhaust gas from the first exhaust gas bypass stream may be cooled with an EGR cooler and mixed with the exhaust gas/air mixture to form a final gas/air mixture before the final gas/air mixture is directed into a second compressor stage of the turbocharger, before the pressurized final gas/air mixture is introduced into the intake manifold. The exhaust gas/air mixture may be cooled after it is compressed by the first compressor stage. A diesel particulate filter to filter exhaust gas in the first exhaust gas bypass stream may be added. Optionally the pressurized exhaust gas/air mixture exiting a last compressor stage of the turbocharger is combined with the first exhaust gas bypass stream before being introduced into the intake manifold, with the exhaust gas/air mixture optionally being cooled before entering the last compressor stage.

10 At least one EGR cooler may be used to cool the first exhaust gas bypass stream and/or the second exhaust gas bypass stream. A charge air cooler may be employed to cool the pressurized exhaust gas and air before they are introduced into the intake manifold. At least one exhaust after-treatment to treat the second exhaust gas bypass stream is optionally included.

15 This EGR system may optionally comprise a second turbocharger operated in parallel with the turbocharger; a bypass for directing a partial flow of exhaust exiting the exhaust manifold into an inlet of a turbine section of the second turbocharger and a first synchronized control valve to control said partial flow; and a second synchronized control valve to control a relative amount of exhaust gas/air mixture entering compressor sections of the turbochargers; wherein exhaust gas exiting the turbine section of the second turbocharger forms a part of the second exhaust gas bypass stream.

20 The present invention is also of an EGR system comprising an engine having an intake manifold and an exhaust manifold a pair of serially arranged turbochargers; a first exhaust gas bypass stream connected to receive exhaust gas upstream of a first turbocharger; a first control valve connected in the first exhaust gas bypass stream to control the amount of exhaust gas received from the exhaust manifold; a second exhaust gas bypass stream connected to receive exhaust gas exiting the exhaust manifold through a turbine section of at least one turbocharger and combine the gas with an intake air stream to form an exhaust gas/air mixture that is directed into a compressor section of the second turbocharger; and a second control valve connected within the

second exhaust gas bypass stream upstream of a connection point with the intake air stream for controlling a relative amount of air and exhaust gas in the exhaust gas/air mixture routed to the compressor section of the second turbocharger; wherein the pressurized exhaust gas/air mixture exiting the second turbocharger is directed to an inlet of a compressor section of the first

5 turbocharger for further compression.

Optionally a turbine section of the second turbocharger receives exhaust gas exiting a turbine section of the first turbocharger and the second exhaust gas bypass stream is connected to receive exhaust gas exiting the turbine section of the second turbocharger, optionally wherein the exhaust gas from the first exhaust gas bypass stream is cooled and mixed with the exhaust gas/air
10 mixture before said mixture is directed to an inlet of a compressor section of the first turbocharger to form a final gas/air mixture, and wherein the pressurized final gas/air mixture exiting the compressor section of the first turbocharger is introduced into the intake manifold. The system may optionally further comprise a diesel particulate filter to filter exhaust gas in the first exhaust gas bypass stream.

Alternatively, the pressurized exhaust gas/air mixture exiting the compressor section of the
15 first turbocharger is combined with the first exhaust gas bypass stream before being introduced into the intake manifold. An EGR cooler may be used to cool the first exhaust gas bypass stream.

In an alternative embodiment the second exhaust gas bypass stream is connected to receive exhaust gas exiting a turbine section of the first turbocharger, wherein the exhaust gas from the first exhaust gas bypass stream is cooled and mixed with the exhaust gas/air mixture before said mixture
20 is directed to a compressor section of the first turbocharger to form a final gas/air mixture, and wherein the pressurized final gas/air mixture exiting the compressor section of the first turbocharger is introduced into the intake manifold. A diesel particulate filter to filter exhaust gas in the first exhaust gas bypass stream may optionally be employed.

These embodiments may further comprise a charge air cooler to cool the exhaust gas and
25 air before they are introduced into the intake manifold, an EGR cooler to cool the second exhaust gas bypass stream, at least one exhaust after-treatment to treat the second exhaust gas bypass stream, and/or a charge air cooler to cool the exhaust gas/air mixture after it is compressed by the compressor section of the second turbocharger.

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The present invention is further of an EGR system comprising an engine having an intake manifold and an exhaust manifold; two turbochargers; an exhaust gas bypass stream; a control valve connected in the exhaust gas bypass stream to control the amount of exhaust gas received from the exhaust manifold; and a cooler to cool the exhaust gas; wherein said exhaust gas is mixed
5 with intake air to form an exhaust gas/air mixture and the exhaust gas/air mixture is compressed by a compressor section of the first turbocharger before being directed to the intake manifold.

The exhaust gas bypass stream may be configured to receive exhaust gas downstream of a turbine section of the first turbocharger, wherein the exhaust gas/air mixture compressed by a compressor section of the second turbocharger before being compressed by the compressor section
10 of the first turbocharger, or alternatively wherein the intake air is compressed by a compressor section of the second turbocharger before it is mixed with the exhaust gas. The intake air may optionally be cooled after it is compressed by the compressor section of the second turbocharger.

Alternatively the exhaust gas bypass stream is configured to receive exhaust gas upstream of the turbochargers, wherein the intake air preferably is compressed by a compressor section of the
15 second turbocharger before it is mixed with the exhaust gas, and the intake air is optionally cooled after it is compressed by the compressor section of the second turbocharger.

These embodiments may further comprise a diesel particulate filter upstream of the control valve and/or a charge air cooler to cool the pressurized exhaust gas/air mixture before it is
introduced into the intake manifold.

20 Other objects, advantages and novel features, and further scope of applicability of the present invention will be set forth in part in the detailed description to follow, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, and in part will become apparent to those skilled in the art upon examination of the following, or may be learned by practice of the invention. The objects and advantages of the invention may be realized and attained by means of the instrumentalities and
25 combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated into and form a part of the specification, illustrate one or more embodiments of the present invention and, together with the

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description, serve to explain the principles of the invention. The drawings are only for the purpose of illustrating one or more preferred embodiments of the invention and are not to be construed as limiting the invention. In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram illustrating a first embodiment dual EGR system according to principles of the invention;

FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram illustrating a second embodiment dual EGR system according to principles of the invention;

FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram illustrating a third embodiment dual EGR system, used with a turbocharger comprising a two-stage compressor, according to principles of the invention;

FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram illustrating a fourth embodiment dual EGR system, used with turbochargers operated in a serial arrangement, according to principles of the invention;

FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram illustrating a fifth embodiment dual EGR system, used with turbochargers operated in a parallel sequential arrangement, according to principles of the invention;

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram illustrating a first embodiment hybrid EGR system, used with a turbocharger comprising a two-stage compressor, according to principles of the invention;

FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram illustrating a second embodiment hybrid EGR system, used with a turbocharger comprising a two-stage compressor, according to principles of the invention;

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram illustrating a third embodiment hybrid EGR system, used with a turbocharger comprising a two-stage compressor, according to principles of the invention;

FIG. 9 is schematic diagram illustrating a fourth embodiment hybrid EGR system, used with turbochargers operated in a serial arrangement, according to principles of the invention;

FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram illustrating a fifth embodiment hybrid EGR system, used with turbochargers operated in a serial arrangement, according to principles of the invention;

FIG. 11 is a schematic diagram illustrating a first embodiment dual hybrid EGR system, used with turbochargers operated in a serial arrangement, according to principles of the invention;

FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram illustrating a second embodiment dual hybrid EGR system, used with turbochargers operated in a serial arrangement, according to principles of the invention;

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FIG. 13 is a schematic diagram illustrating a third embodiment dual hybrid EGR system, used with a turbocharger comprising a two-stage compressor, according to principles of the invention; and

FIG. 14 is a schematic diagram illustrating a special embodiment hybrid EGR system, used with turbochargers operated in a serial arrangement, according to principles of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

EGR systems of this invention are configured to operate with single or multiple-turbocharged internal combustion engine applications, using single or multiple-staged turbochargers, to provide exhaust gas recirculation to the engine in a manner that meets stringent emissions requirements without detracting from desired engine performance characteristics.

To be able to meet desired performance requirements with a multi-staged turbine and/or compressor, the locations for tapping off the EGR from the exhaust and introducing it back into the intake system is of major significance. Thus, the flexibility in being able to tap off exhaust gas and introduce it back into the intake flow at multiple locations may be required. This includes tapping off exhaust gases in between stages and not necessarily at the exhaust manifold (High Pressure Loop EGR) or tailpipe (Low Pressure Loop EGR). Tapping off and introducing exhaust gases between stages for EGR purposes is referred to herein as "Hybrid" EGR Systems. In all cases, if EGR is being introduced upstream of a compressor and vehicle Charge Air Cooler (CAC), then it is likely that a particulate filter will be required to rid the exhaust of the constituents that would likely foul the compressor and/or vehicle CAC.

EGR systems of this invention are described and illustrated as being used in conjunction with exhaust after-treatments for the purpose of achieving reduced NOx emissions, which can be provided in the form of filters, catalysts and/or traps. Examples of such exhaust after-treatments can include lean NOx traps (LNT), diesel oxidation catalysts (DOC), and diesel particular filters (DPF). However, it is to be understood that EGR systems of this invention can alternatively be used without exhaust after-treatments, or can be used with exhaust after-treatments other than those noted above without departing from the spirit of this invention.

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FIG. 1 illustrates a first embodiment dual EGR system **10** of this invention comprising engine **12** and turbocharger **14** connected thereto. In the example illustrated, the engine **12** is of an inline piston configuration, however EGR system **10** will work with any engine configuration. As used herein, the term "dual" is understood to refer to the fact that two EGR streams are being provided to the engine. First EGR stream **16** is provided from engine exhaust manifold **18** and is controlled via control or EGR valve **20**. Cooler **22** is used to cool the first EGR stream before introduced into engine intake manifold **24**. Exhaust gas from a second EGR stream is mixed with intake air and pressurized by turbocharger compressor **28**. The exhaust gas for the second EGR stream is provided to an inlet end of the compressor via exhaust bypass stream **30** exiting the turbocharger turbine **32**. The exhaust bypass is taken downstream of exhaust after-treatment **33**, and air-to-air charge cooler **34** is used to cool pressurized fresh air/second EGR stream mixture **26** before introduction into the intake manifold. EGR mixer **36** is used to mix the first and second EGR streams together prior to introduction.

In this particular embodiment, fresh air/second EGR stream mixture **26** is a high pressure loop (HPL) that is cooled to provide EGR for mid/full load operation. First EGR stream **16** is a low pressure loop (LPL) that provides uncooled EGR for idle/low load operation. The split between EGR delivered via the HPL and LPL is controlled by EGR valve **20**, and the split towards the LPL is increased for cold weather operation.

FIG. 2 illustrates a second embodiment dual EGR system **38** of this invention comprising engine **40** and turbocharger **42** connected thereto. In the example illustrated, engine **40** is of a V-8 piston configuration, however EGR system **38** will work with any engine configuration. First EGR stream/LPL **44** is provided from engine exhaust manifolds **46** and is controlled via first control or EGR valve **48**. Cooler **50** is used to cool the first EGR stream before introduced into engine intake manifold **52**. Second EGR stream/HPL **54** is provided with pressurized intake air provided by turbocharger compressor **56**. The exhaust gas for the second EGR stream is provided to an inlet end of the compressor via exhaust bypass stream **58** exiting turbocharger turbine **60**. The exhaust bypass is taken downstream of exhaust after-treatment **62**, and air-to-air charge cooler **64** is used to cool the pressurized intake air and second EGR stream before introduction into the intake manifold. Second control or EGR valve **66** can be used to control the amount of exhaust gas that is mixed with

fresh intake air for introduction into the compressor inlet. Second cooler 68 may optionally be used in exhaust bypass 58 to control the temperature of the exhaust gas entering the compressor. EGR mixer 70 is used to mix the first and second EGR streams together prior to introduction into the engine.

5 In this particular embodiment, the first/LPL and second/HPL EGR streams are operated in the same manner as described above to provide cooled EGR for mid/full load operation, and uncooled EGR for idle/low load operation.

FIG. 3 illustrates a third embodiment dual EGR system 72 that is in many respects similar to that described above and illustrated in FIG. 2, except that the turbocharger 74 includes a
10 compressor section 76 comprising a double sided or two-stage compressor. First compressor 78 is a low pressure compressor that receives a mix of intake air and EGR from exhaust bypass 82 and pressurizes the same before routing to second compressor 80 that is a high pressure compressor and that operates to provide a final desired boosting pressure for introduction of the mixed intake air and EGR into the engine. Charge air cooler 84 may optionally be used between the first and second
15 compressor stages. Like the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 2, first/LPL 86 and second/HPL EGR streams 88 are operated to provide desired cooled EGR for mid/full load operation, and uncooled EGR for idle/low load operation.

FIG. 4 illustrates a fourth embodiment dual EGR system 90 that is in many respects similar to that described above and illustrated in FIG. 2, except that the engine is turbocharged by more
20 than one turbocharger. In this example, two turbochargers 92 and 94 are arranged in series. First EGR stream/LPL 96 is the same as that of the second and third embodiments. The exhaust gas outlet from first turbocharger 92 is directed to the turbine inlet of second turbocharger 94, and exhaust bypass 93 is mixed with fresh inlet air prior to entering the low pressure compressor of second turbocharger 94. The pressurized output from the low pressure compressor is directed to a
25 high pressure compressor of first turbocharger 92, and optional charge air cooler 100 can be interposed therebetween. The mix of pressurized air and EGR exiting the high pressure compressor comprises second EGR stream/HPL 102 of the system. Like the dual EGR system embodiments described and illustrated above, first/LPL 96 and second/HPL 102 EGR streams are operated to

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provide desired cooled EGR for mid/full load operation, and uncooled EGR for idle/low load operation.

FIG. 5 illustrates a fifth embodiment dual EGR system **90** that is in many respects similar to that described above and illustrated in FIG. 2, except that the engine is turbocharged by more than one turbocharger. In this example, two turbochargers **106** and **108** are arranged in parallel. First EGR stream/LPL **110** is the same as that of the second, third and fourth embodiments. The exhaust gas outlet from the exhaust manifold, which is connected to the turbine inlet of first turbocharger **106**, includes a bypass that is connected via control valve **112** to the turbine inlet of second turbocharger **108** to permit second turbocharger operation if so desired. Exhaust bypass **114** is taken from the outlet of both turbochargers and is mixed with fresh inlet air prior to entering one or both compressor inlets of the two turbochargers. Second control valve **116** is used to permit the parallel passage of inlet air and EGR to the second turbocharger. The pressurized air and EGR exiting both turbochargers is directed towards the engine and comprises second EGR stream/HPL **118** of the system. Unlike the fourth dual EGR system embodiment, there are no intermediate pressure areas between the turbochargers, as each of the turbochargers are operated in parallel not in series. However, like the dual EGR system embodiments described and illustrated above, first/LPL **110** and second/HPL **118** EGR streams are operated in the same manner as that previously described to provide desired cooled EGR for mid/full load operation, and uncooled EGR for idle/low load operation.

FIG. 6 illustrates a first embodiment hybrid EGR system **120** of this invention comprising engine **122** and turbocharger **124** connected thereto. In the example illustrated, engine **122** is of an inline piston configuration, however hybrid EGR system **120** may be used with any engine configuration. As used herein, the term "hybrid" is understood to refer to the fact that an exhaust bypass stream is taken from the engine and introduced between compressor stages of a turbocharger comprising two stages. In this embodiment, a single EGR stream **126** is introduced into engine intake manifold **128**. Exhaust gas exiting engine exhaust manifold **130** is passed to control valve **132**. The valve directs the passage of exhaust gas to one or both of turbocharger turbine **134** and turbocharger compressor **136**. Bypass stream **138** that is routed to the compressor **136** can first be passed through exhaust after-treatment **140**, e.g., diesel particular filtering, for

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purposes of not fouling the compressor or downstream charge air cooler. The EGR stream is then cooled by passage through EGR cooler 142 before being mixed via EGR mixer 144 with pressurized intake air 146 produced by compressor first stage 148. Optionally charge air cooler 150 may be used to cool the first stage pressurized air. The combined exhaust gas and pressurized air mixed in mixer 144 is introduced to the inlet of compressor second stage 152 for further pressurizing before being directed to the engine. Charge air cooler 154 is used to cool the pressurized air and EGR stream 126 prior to introduction into the engine. The embodiment illustrated is that of a low speed turbocharger configuration. In this particular embodiment, EGR stream 126 is provided in the form of pressurized intake air mixture and the amount of EGR is controlled by control valve 132.

FIG. 7 illustrates a second embodiment hybrid EGR system 156 of this invention that is in many respects similar to that described above and illustrated in FIG. 6, except that EGR cooler 158 is disposed within exhaust bypass stream 160 downstream from EGR mixer 162 so that it operates to cool both the exhaust gas and first stage pressurized intake air before being introduced into turbocharger second compressor stage 164. Like the hybrid EGR system embodiment described above, control valve 166 operates to regulate the amount of exhaust gas that is directed to the compressor, and thus the amount of EGR directed to the engine.

FIG. 8 illustrates a third embodiment EGR system 168 of this invention that is in many respects similar to that described above and illustrated in FIG. 6, except that it is used with engine 170 having a V-8 piston configuration, although any engine configuration will work with EGR system 168, and turbocharger 172 having two stage compressor 174. In this embodiment, the exhaust gas exiting the engine exhaust manifolds is split into first stream 178 that is directed to turbocharger turbine 180, and second stream 182 that is ultimately directed to turbocharger compressor 174 for EGR. Control valve 184 is disposed within second stream 182 downstream from exhaust after-treatment 186, e.g., a diesel particulate filter. Exhaust gas exiting the control valve is mixed with pressurized intake air, produced from compressor first stage 188, and is then cooled via charge air/EGR cooler 190. The cooled exhaust gas and charge air is then directed into the inlet of a compressor second stage 192 for pressurizing as desired for introduction into the engine. Charge air cooler 194 is positioned downstream of the compressor second stage for cooling the mixed pressurized air and exhaust gas before being introduced, via EGR stream 196, into the engine for

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combustion. The embodiment illustrated is that of a low speed turbocharger, high-pressure-loop EGR configuration. In this particular embodiment, EGR stream 194 is provided in the form of pressurized intake air mixture and the amount of EGR is controlled by control valve 184.

FIG. 9 illustrates a fourth embodiment EGR system 200 of this invention that is in many respects similar to that described above and illustrated in FIG.8, except that it is used with more than one turbocharger in a serial arrangement. In this embodiment, the exhaust gas exiting engine exhaust manifolds 202 is split into first stream 204 that is directed to turbine 205 of high pressure turbocharger 206, and second stream 208 that is ultimately directed to compressor section 210 of high pressure turbocharger 206 for EGR. Control valve 212 is disposed within second stream 208 downstream from exhaust after-treatment 214, e.g., a diesel particulate filter. Exhaust gas exiting the control valve is mixed with pressurized intake air, produced from compressor section 216 of low pressure turbocharger 218, and is then cooled via charge air/EGR cooler 220. The cooled exhaust gas and charge air is then directed into inlet of high pressure turbocharger compressor 210 for pressurizing as desired for introduction into the engine. Charge air cooler 222 is positioned downstream of high pressure turbocharger compressor 210 for cooling the mixed further pressurized air and exhaust gas before being introduced, via EGR stream 224, into the engine for combustion. The embodiment illustrated is that of a series turbocharger, high-pressure-loop EGR configuration. In this particular embodiment, EGR stream 224 is provided in the form of pressurized intake air mixture and the amount of EGR is controlled by control valve 212.

FIG. 10 illustrates a fifth embodiment EGR system 226 of this invention that is in many respects similar to that described above and illustrated in FIG.9 in that it involves the use of multiple turbochargers positioned in a serial arrangement. In this particular embodiment, however, engine exhaust 228 is routed directly to turbine section 230 of high pressure turbocharger 232, and EGR bypass stream 234 is taken between the turbine exhaust outlet of the first turbocharger and turbine section 236 exhaust inlet of second turbocharger 238. Control valve 240 is positioned with EGR bypass stream 234 downstream of exhaust after-treatment 242, e.g., a diesel particulate filter, and EGR cooler 244. Exhaust gas exiting valve 240 is mixed with inlet air before being introduced into the inlet of compressor section 246 of low pressure turbocharger 238. Pressurized air and exhaust gas exiting compressor section 246 of pressure turbocharger 238 is introduced into the inlet of

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compressor section 248 of high pressure turbocharger 232 for pressurizing to a desired amount for introduction into the engine. Charge air cooler 250 is positioned downstream of high pressure turbocharger compressor 248 for cooling the mixed further pressurized air and exhaust gas before being introduced, via EGR stream 252, into the engine for combustion. The embodiment illustrated

5 is that of a series turbocharger, hybrid low pressure loop EGR configuration. In this particular embodiment, EGR stream 252 is provided in the form of pressurized intake air mixture and the amount of EGR is controlled by control valve 240.

FIG. 11 illustrates a first embodiment dual hybrid EGR system 254 of this invention that is in many respects similar to that described above and illustrated in FIG. 9 in that it involves the use of

10 multiple turbochargers positioned serially, and involves the use of EGR bypass stream 262 for introducing exhaust gas into compressor section 274 of high pressure turbocharger 266. This embodiment differs, however, in that it also includes another EGR bypass stream 256 that is taken before entering turbine section 261 of low pressure turbocharger 260. Because EGR bypass stream 256 is taken downstream of high pressure turbocharger turbine section 264, for introduction into

15 compressor section 258 of low pressure turbocharger 260, it is referred to as a low pressure section of the EGR loop. The other EGR bypass stream 262 includes control valve 268 positioned downstream of exhaust after-treatment 270, e.g., a diesel particulate filter, and charge air/EGR cooler 272. Exhaust gas exiting valve 268 is mixed with a pressurized mixture of air and exhaust gas from EGR bypass stream 256 produced by low pressure turbocharger compressor 258 before

20 being introduced into the inlet of compressor section 274 of high pressure turbocharger 266. Because EGR bypass stream 262 is taken before entry into high pressure turbocharger turbine 264, it is referred to as a high pressure section of the EGR loop. Pressurized air and exhaust gas exiting compressor 274 of high pressure turbocharger 266 is passed through charge air cooler 276 for cooling the further pressurized air and exhaust gas mixture before being introduced, via fresh

25 air/EGR mixture stream 278, into the engine for combustion. The embodiment illustrated involves the use of series turbochargers, and is referred to as being a dual hybrid system in that it includes two EGR loops, i.e., a high pressure loop and a low pressure loop, and because it involves the introduction of exhaust gas for EGR purposes into one or more turbocharger compressors. Thus, this EGR system embodiment can be referred to as a dual hybrid high pressure and hybrid low

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pressure loop EGR system. In this particular embodiment, EGR stream 278 is provided in the form of pressurized intake air mixture and the amount of EGR provided via the low pressure loop is controlled by control valve 280, while the amount of EGR provided via the high pressure loop is controlled by control valve 268.

5 FIG. 12 illustrates a second embodiment dual hybrid EGR system 282 of this invention that is in many respects similar to that described above and illustrated in FIG. 11 in that it involves the use of multiple turbochargers positioned serially, and involves the use both high pressure and low pressure EGR loops. This embodiment differs, however, in that the low pressure EGR loop is provided in the form of EGR bypass stream 284 that is taken downstream from turbine section 286
10 of low pressure turbocharger 288, and downstream from exhaust after-treatment 290. EGR bypass 284 includes control valve 292 that is positioned upstream of a compressor section of low pressure turbocharger 288. The high pressure EGR loop is identical to the embodiment described above and illustrated in FIG. 11. The embodiment illustrated involves the use of series turbochargers, and is referred to as being a dual hybrid system in that it includes two EGR loops, i.e., a high pressure loop
15 and a low pressure loop, and because it involves the introduction of exhaust gas for EGR purposes into one or more turbocharger compressors. Thus, this EGR system embodiment can be referred to as a dual hybrid high pressure and hybrid low pressure loop EGR system. In this particular embodiment, EGR stream 294 is provided in the form of pressurized intake air mixture and the amount of EGR provided via the low pressure loop is controlled by control valve 292, while the
20 amount of EGR provided via the high pressure loop is controlled by control valve 296.

 FIG. 13 illustrates a third embodiment dual hybrid EGR system 300 of this invention that involves the use of low and high pressure EGR loops in a single turbocharger application. In this embodiment, EGR bypass stream 302 is taken from engine exhaust manifolds 304 upstream from turbocharger turbine section 308, and forms part of the high pressure EGR loop. Another EGR
25 bypass stream 310 is taken downstream from turbine section 308, and downstream from exhaust after-treatment 312. EGR bypass 310 includes control valve 314 that is positioned upstream of turbocharger compressor section 316. In this embodiment, the turbocharger comprises a two stage compressor (including either a double sided compressor or two separate compressors) similar to that illustrated in FIG. 8. Exhaust gas exiting valve 314 is mixed with air before being introduced

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into an inlet of first (low pressure) compressor stage 318. Exhaust gas in EGR bypass stream 302 is passed through exhaust after-treatment 320, e.g., diesel particulate filter and to control valve 322 before being mixed with pressurized air and exhaust exiting turbocharger first compressor stage 318. The mixed exhaust gas from EGR bypass stream 302 and the pressurized air is cooled by
5 EGR charge air cooler 324 before being introduced into an inlet of second (high pressure) compressor stage 326. The mixture of pressurized air and exhaust gas exits the second stage compressor and is routed through a charge air cooler before being introduced into the engine via EGR stream 330. The example embodiment illustrated is referred to as being a dual hybrid system in that it includes two EGR loops, i.e., a high pressure loop and a low pressure loop, and because it
10 involves the introduction of exhaust gas for EGR purposes into between the compressor stages of a multi-compressor stage turbocharger. Thus, this EGR system embodiment can be referred to as a dual hybrid high pressure and hybrid low pressure loop EGR system. In this particular embodiment, EGR stream 330 is provided in the form of pressurized intake air mixture and the amount of EGR provided via the low pressure loop is controlled by control valve 314, while the amount of EGR
15 provided via the high pressure loop is controlled by control valve 322.

FIG. 14 illustrates a special embodiment intermediate pressure EGR system 332 of this invention. This embodiment is somewhat similar to that illustrated in FIG. 12 in that it involves the use of serially arranged turbochargers 334 and 336, and that it includes the introduction of exhaust gas between the two compressor sections 338 and 340 of respective turbochargers 334 and 336.
20 However, this particular embodiment only includes a single EGR loop that is taken as exhaust bypass stream 342 downstream of high pressure turbocharger turbine 344 but upstream of low pressure turbocharger turbine 346. Control valve 348 is positioned within EGR bypass stream 342 downstream of exhaust after-treatment 350, e.g., a diesel particulate filter. Exhaust gas exiting valve 348 is mixed with pressurized air produced by (low pressure) compressor section 340 of low
25 pressure turbocharger 336. The mixed pressurized air and exhaust gas is passed through charge air/EGR cooler 352 before being introduced into (high pressure) compressor section 338 of high pressure turbocharger 334. The mixture of pressurized air and exhaust gas exits compressor section 338 and is routed through charge air cooler 354 before being introduced into the engine via EGR stream 356. The embodiment illustrated is referred to as an intermediate pressure loop

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system, and because it involves taking an exhaust gas bypass stream at an intermediate pressure point between the two turbocharger turbines before being introduced between the turbocharger compressor stages. The intermediate pressure loop EGR system is still considered a hybrid in that it involves the introduction of exhaust gas between turbocharger compressors. In this particular
5 embodiment, EGR stream 356 is provided in the form of pressurized intake air mixture and the amount of EGR that is provided is controlled by control valve 348.

Although the invention has been described in detail with particular reference to these preferred embodiments, other embodiments can achieve the same results. Variations and modifications of the present invention will be obvious to those skilled in the art and it is intended to
10 cover in the appended claims all such modifications and equivalents. The entire disclosures of all references, applications, patents, and publications cited above are hereby incorporated by reference.

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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. An exhaust gas recirculation (EGR) system comprising:
 an engine having an intake manifold and an exhaust manifold;
 a turbocharger with at least one compressor stage;
 a first exhaust gas bypass stream connected to receive exhaust gas upstream of the
 turbocharger;
10 a first control valve connected in the first exhaust gas bypass stream to control the
 amount of exhaust gas received from the exhaust manifold;
 a second exhaust gas bypass stream connected to receive exhaust gas exiting the
 exhaust manifold through a turbine section of the turbocharger and combine the gas with an intake
 air stream to form an exhaust gas/air mixture that is directed into a first compressor stage of the
15 turbocharger; and
 a second control valve connected within the second exhaust gas bypass stream
 upstream of a connection point with the intake air stream for controlling a relative amount of air and
 exhaust gas in the exhaust gas/air mixture routed to the first compressor stage of the turbocharger;
 wherein the exhaust gas from the first exhaust gas bypass stream is cooled with an
20 EGR cooler and mixed with the exhaust gas/air mixture before or after the exhaust gas/air mixture
 has been compressed by a last compressor stage of the turbocharger.
2. The EGR system of claim 1 further comprising:
 a second turbocharger operated in parallel with the turbocharger;
25 a bypass for directing a partial flow of exhaust exiting the exhaust manifold into an
 inlet of a turbine section of the second turbocharger and a first synchronized control valve to control
 said partial flow; and
 a second synchronized control valve to control a relative amount of exhaust gas/air
 mixture entering compressor sections of the turbochargers;

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wherein exhaust gas exiting the turbine section of the second turbocharger forms a part of the second exhaust gas bypass stream.

3. An EGR system comprising:

an engine having an intake manifold and an exhaust manifold;

a pair of serially arranged turbochargers;

a first exhaust gas bypass stream connected to receive exhaust gas upstream of a first turbocharger;

a first control valve connected in the first exhaust gas bypass stream to control the amount of exhaust gas received from the exhaust manifold;

a second exhaust gas bypass stream connected to receive exhaust gas exiting the exhaust manifold through a turbine section of at least one turbocharger and combine the gas with an intake air stream to form an exhaust gas/air mixture that is directed into a compressor section of the second turbocharger; and

a second control valve connected within the second exhaust gas bypass stream upstream of a connection point with the intake air stream for controlling a relative amount of air and exhaust gas in the exhaust gas/air mixture routed to the compressor section of the second turbocharger;

wherein the second exhaust gas bypass stream is connected to receive exhaust gas exiting a turbine section of the first turbocharger before or after the exhaust gas has passed through a turbine section of the second turbocharger;

wherein the pressurized exhaust gas/air mixture exiting the second turbocharger is directed to an inlet of a compressor section of the first turbocharger for further compression;

wherein the exhaust gas from the first exhaust gas bypass stream is cooled with an EGR cooler and mixed with the exhaust gas/air mixture before or after the exhaust gas/air mixture has been compressed by the compressor section of the first turbocharger.

4. An EGR system comprising:

an engine having an intake manifold and an exhaust manifold;

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two turbochargers;

an exhaust gas bypass stream configured to receive exhaust gas upstream of the turbochargers or downstream of a turbine section of the first turbocharger;

optionally a diesel particulate filter;

5 a control valve connected in the exhaust gas bypass stream to control the amount of exhaust gas received from the exhaust manifold; and

a cooler to cool the exhaust gas;

wherein intake air is mixed with said exhaust gas to form an exhaust gas/air mixture optionally after the intake air is compressed by a compressor section of the second turbocharger
10 and optionally subsequently cooled;

wherein the exhaust gas/air mixture is compressed by a compressor section of the first turbocharger before being directed to the intake manifold, optionally after the exhaust gas/air mixture is first compressed by a compressor section of the second turbocharger.

15 5. The EGR system of claim 1, claim 2, claim 3 or claim 4 further comprising a charge air cooler to cool the pressurized exhaust gas and air before they are introduced into the intake manifold.

20 6. The EGR system of claim 1, claim 2, or claim 3 further comprising at least one EGR cooler to cool the first exhaust bypass stream or the second exhaust gas bypass stream.

7. The EGR system of claim 1, claim 2, or claim 3 further comprising at least one exhaust after-treatment to treat the first exhaust gas bypass stream or the second exhaust gas bypass stream.

25 8. The EGR system of claim 1 or claim 3 wherein the exhaust gas/air mixture is cooled after it is compressed by the first compressor stage of the turbocharger or the compressor section of the second turbocharger.

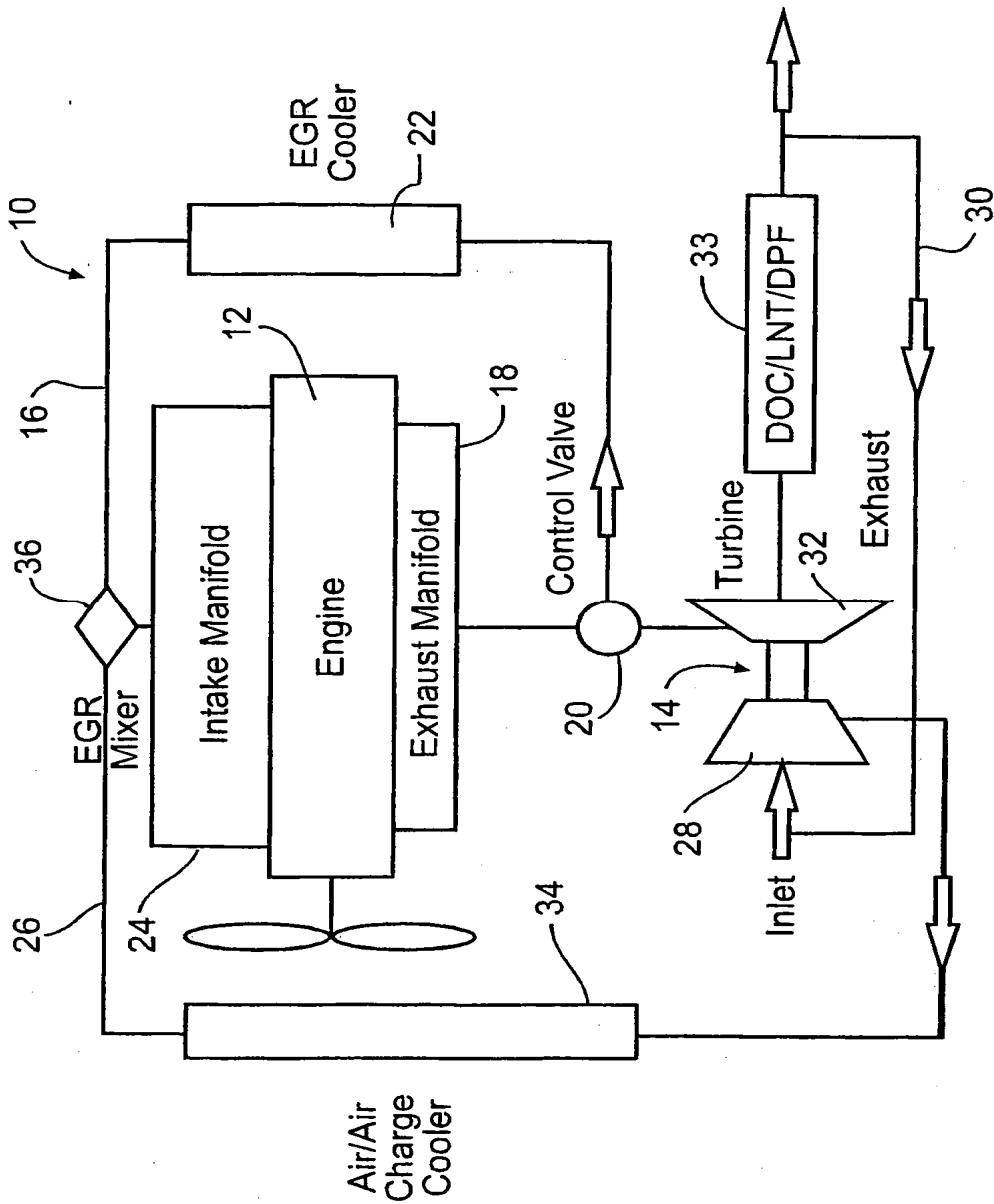


Fig. 1

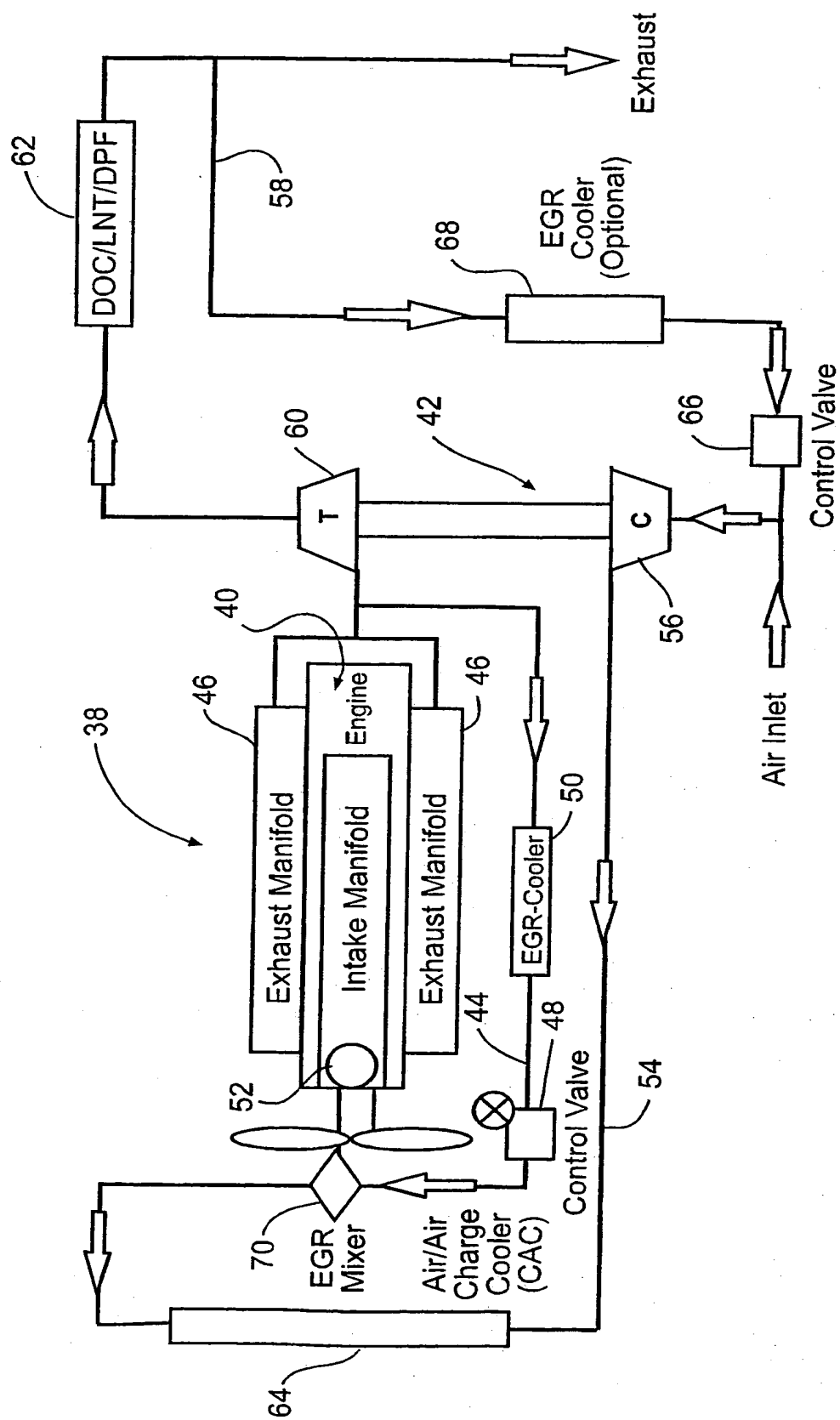


Fig. 2

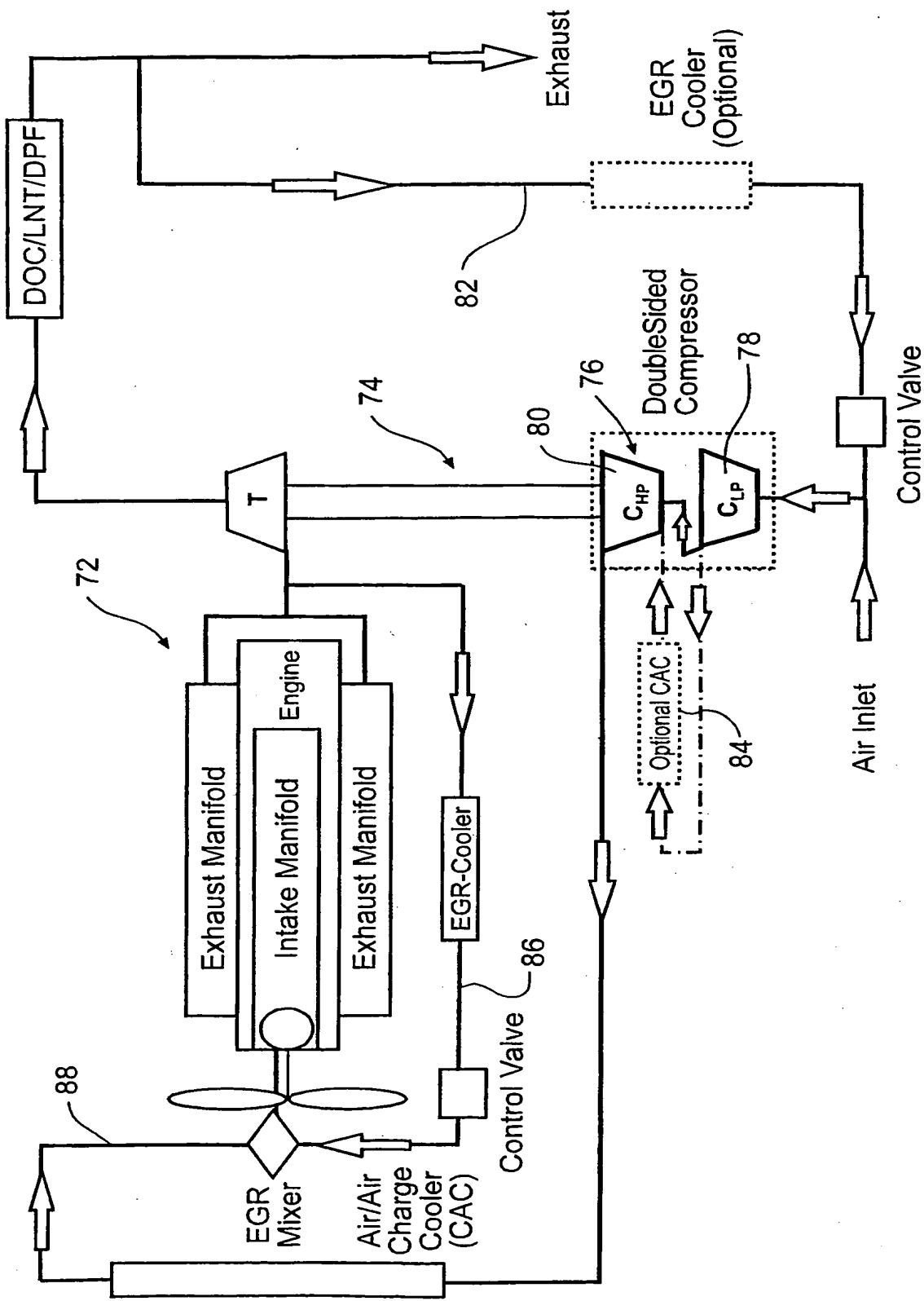


Fig. 3

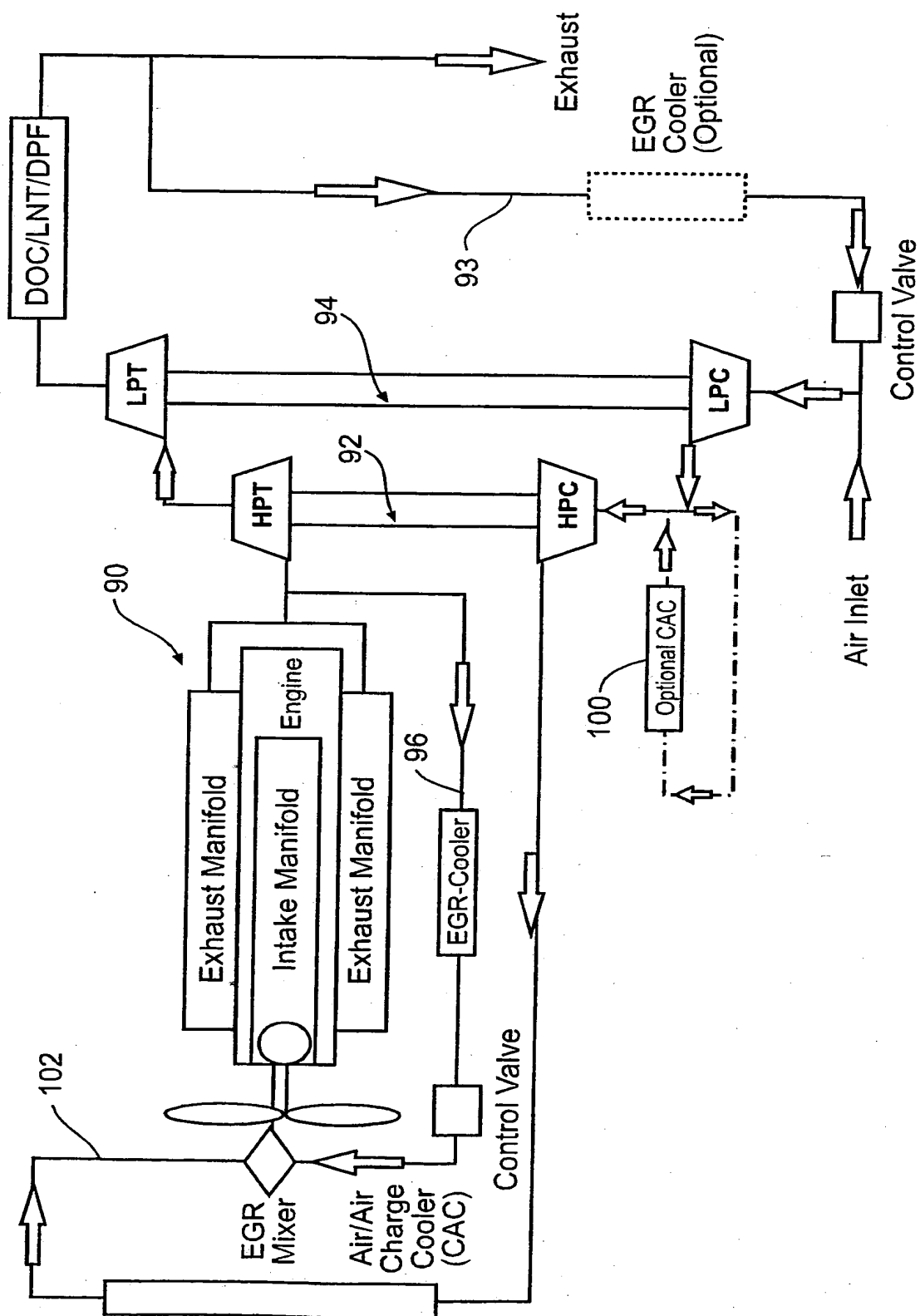


Fig. 4

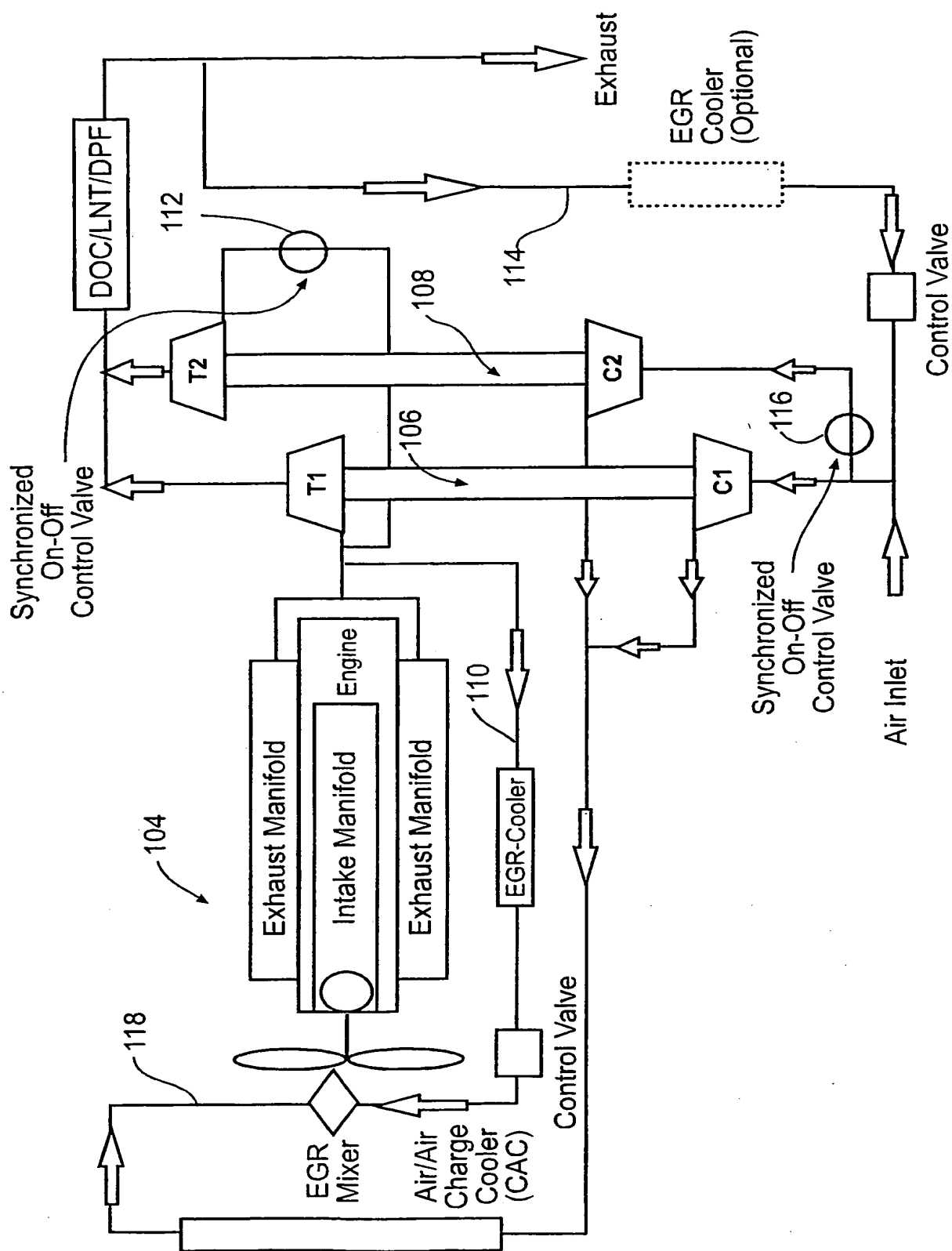


Fig. 5

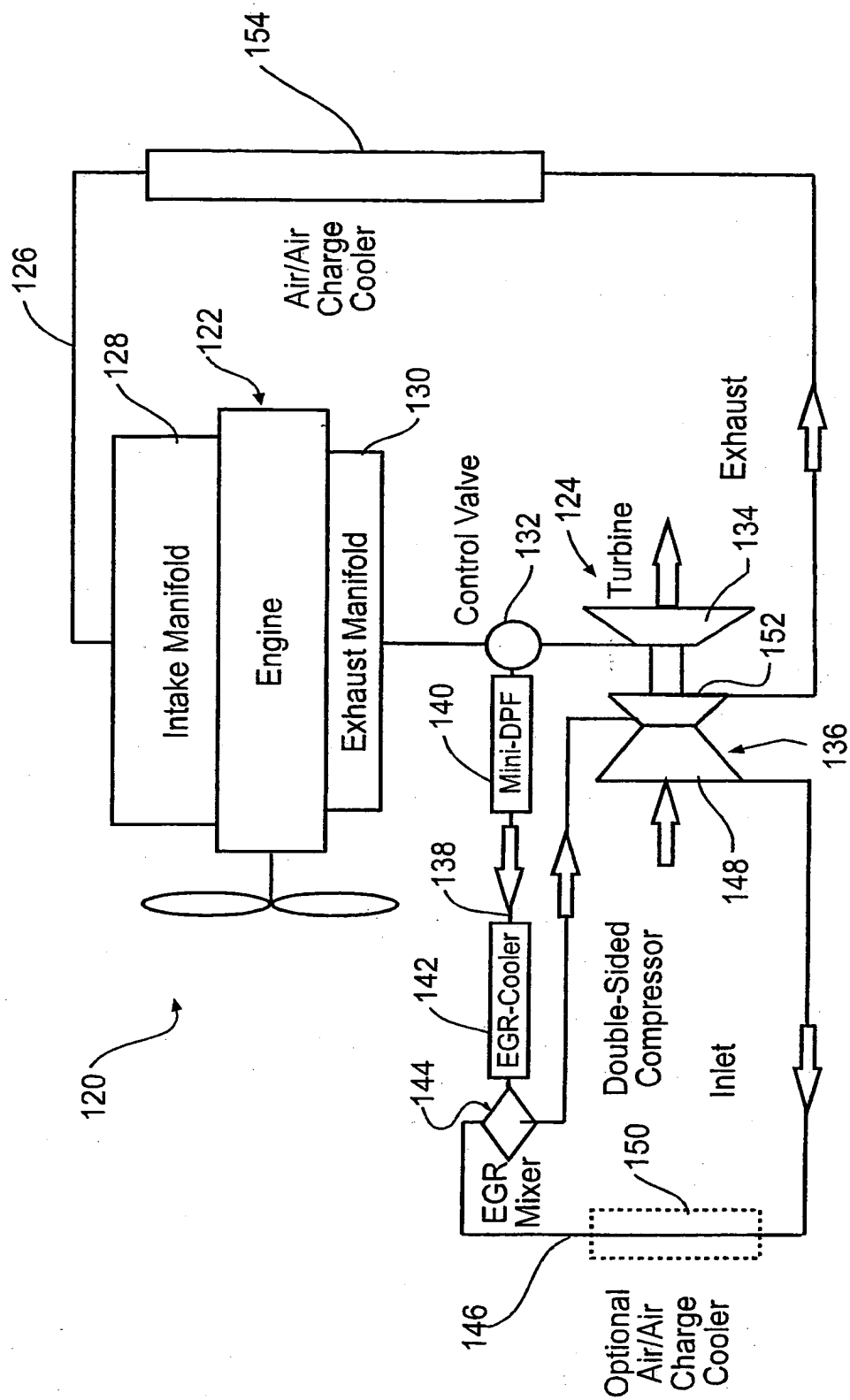


Fig. 6

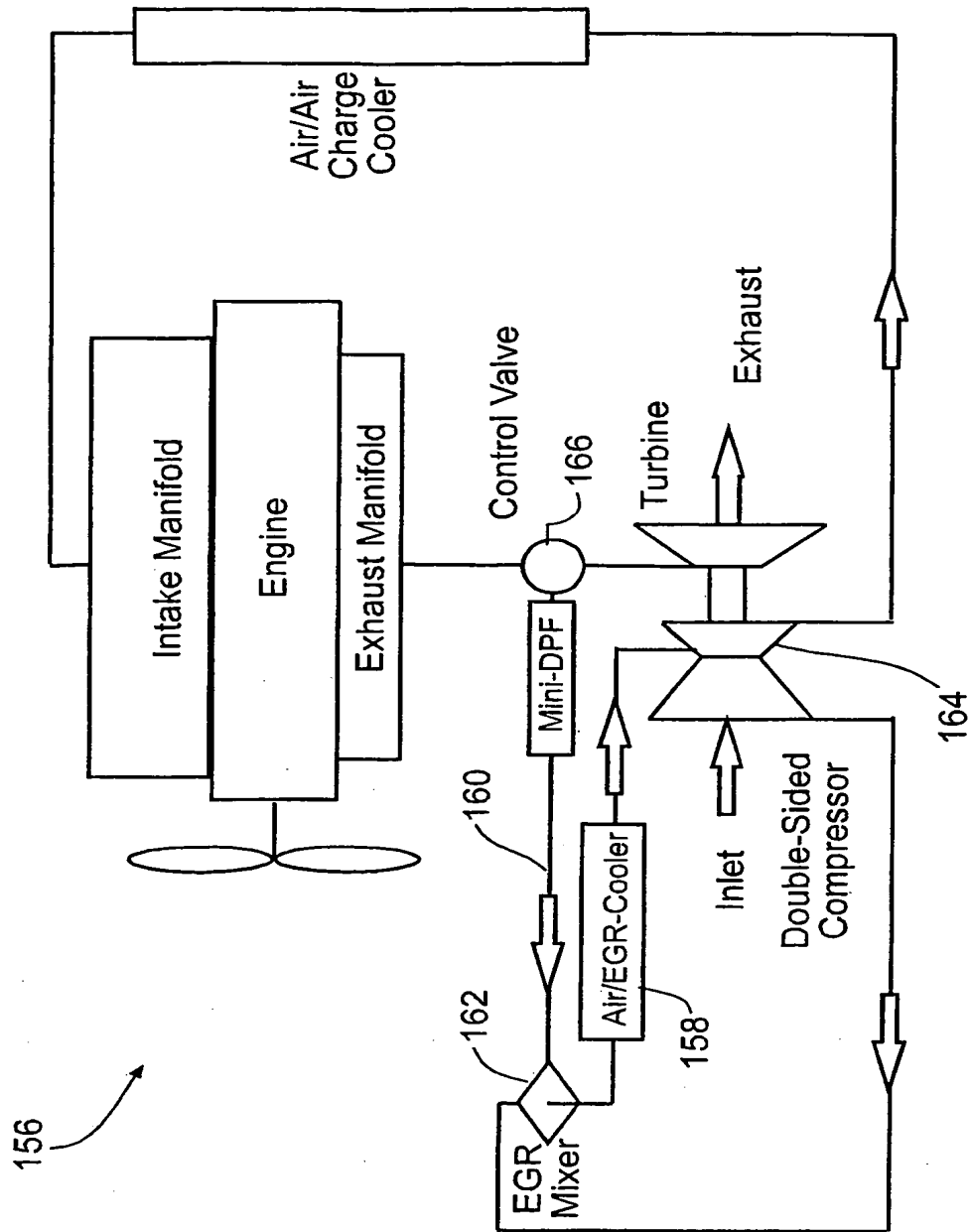


Fig. 7

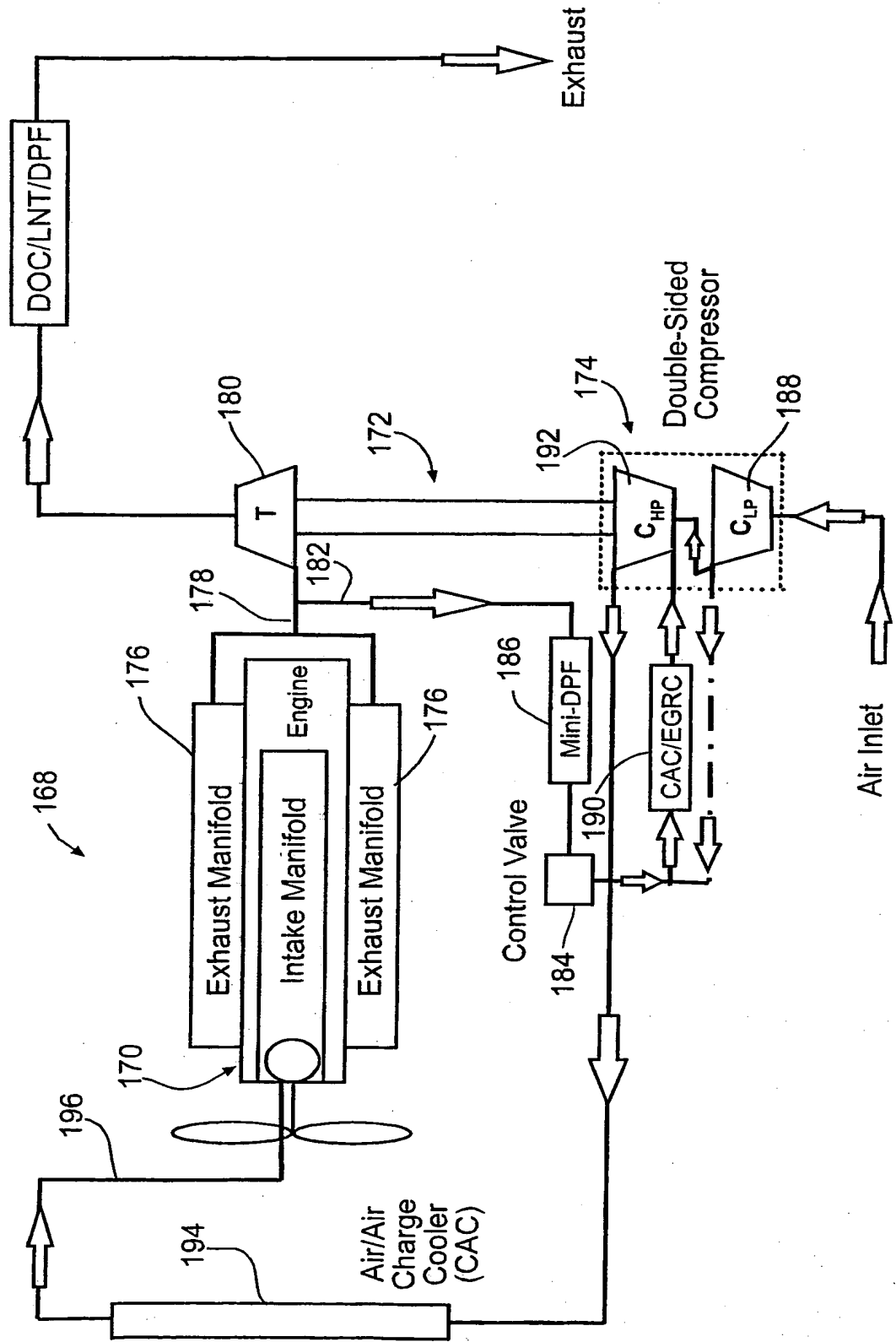


Fig. 8

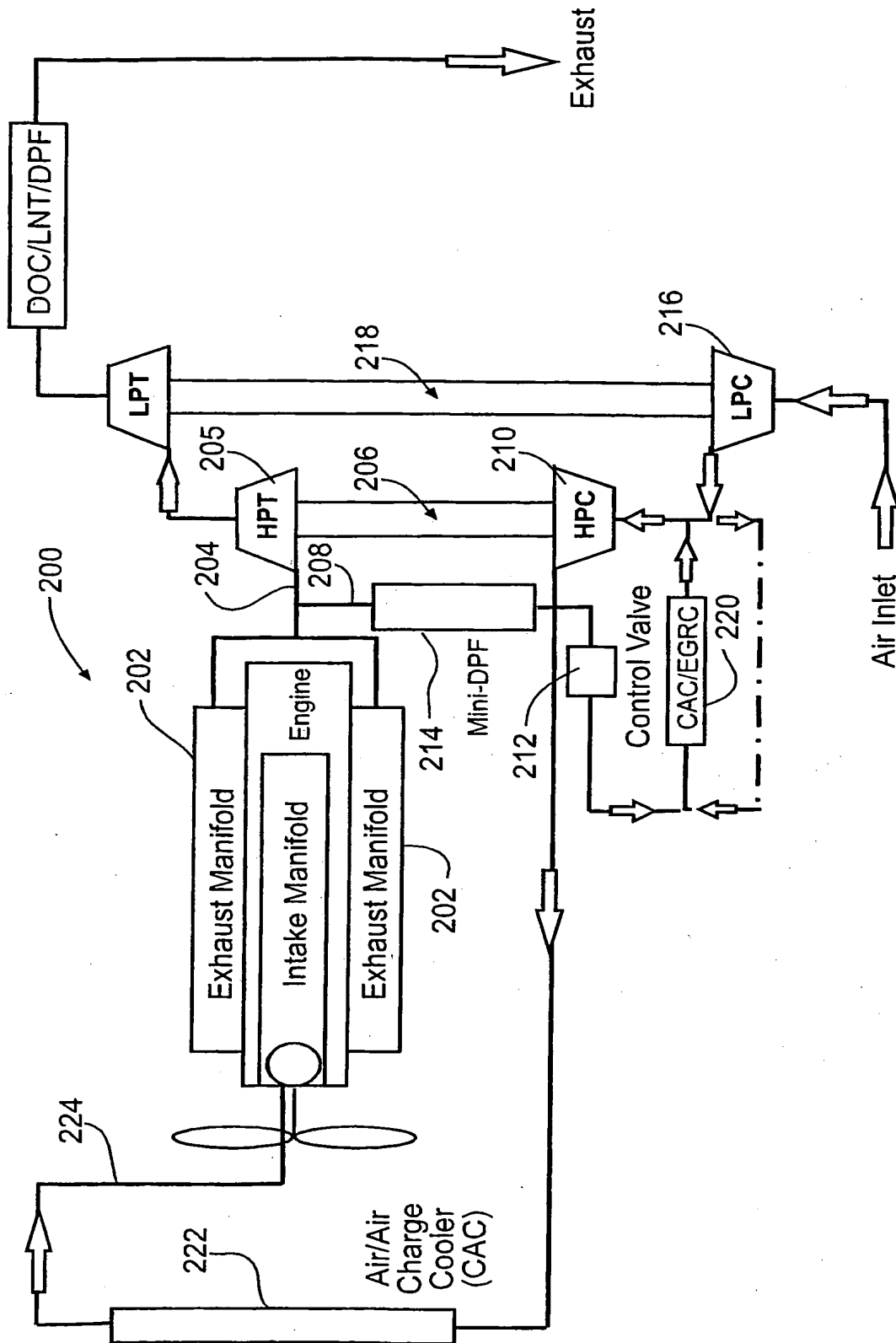


Fig. 9

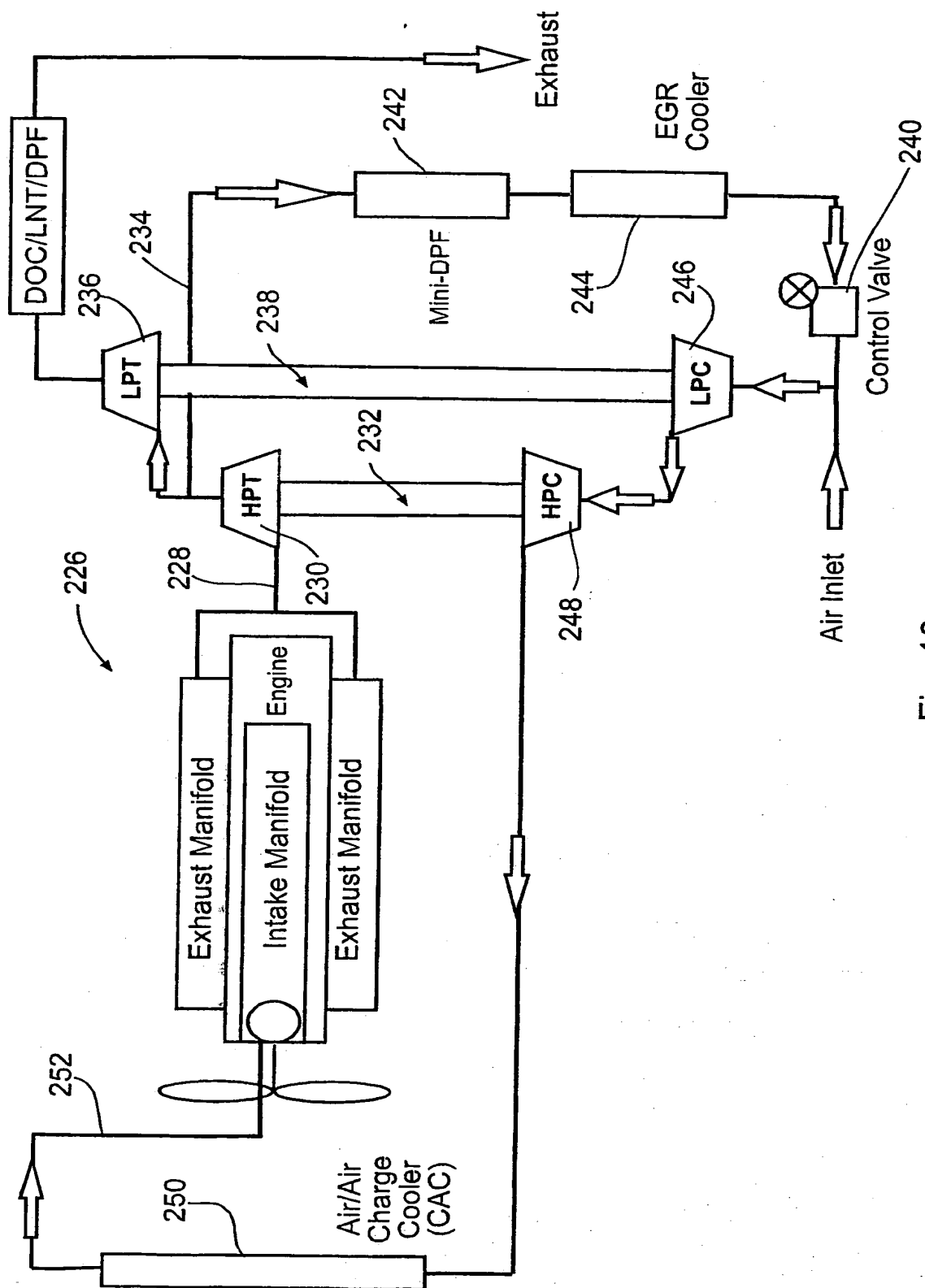


Fig. 10

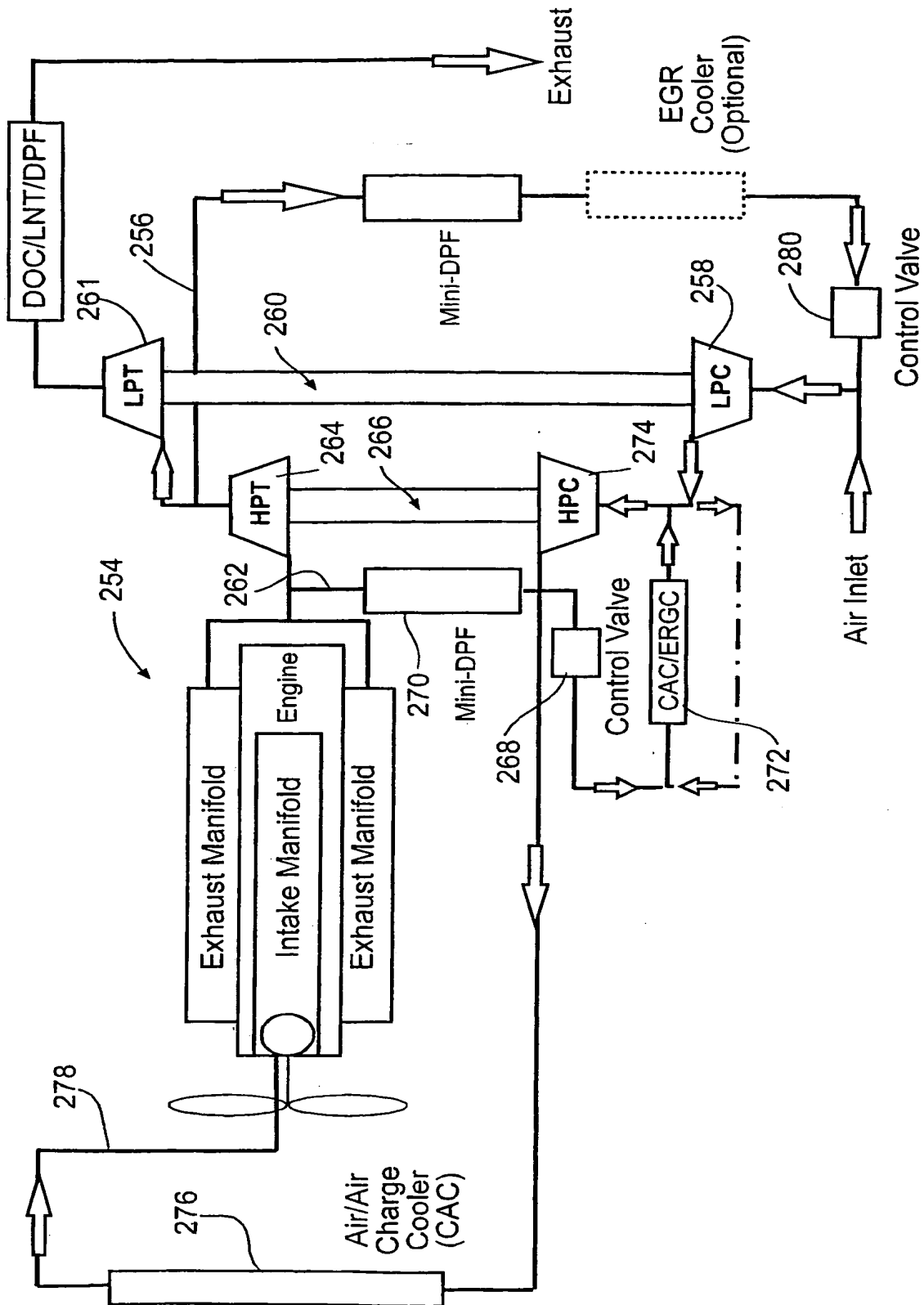


Fig. 11

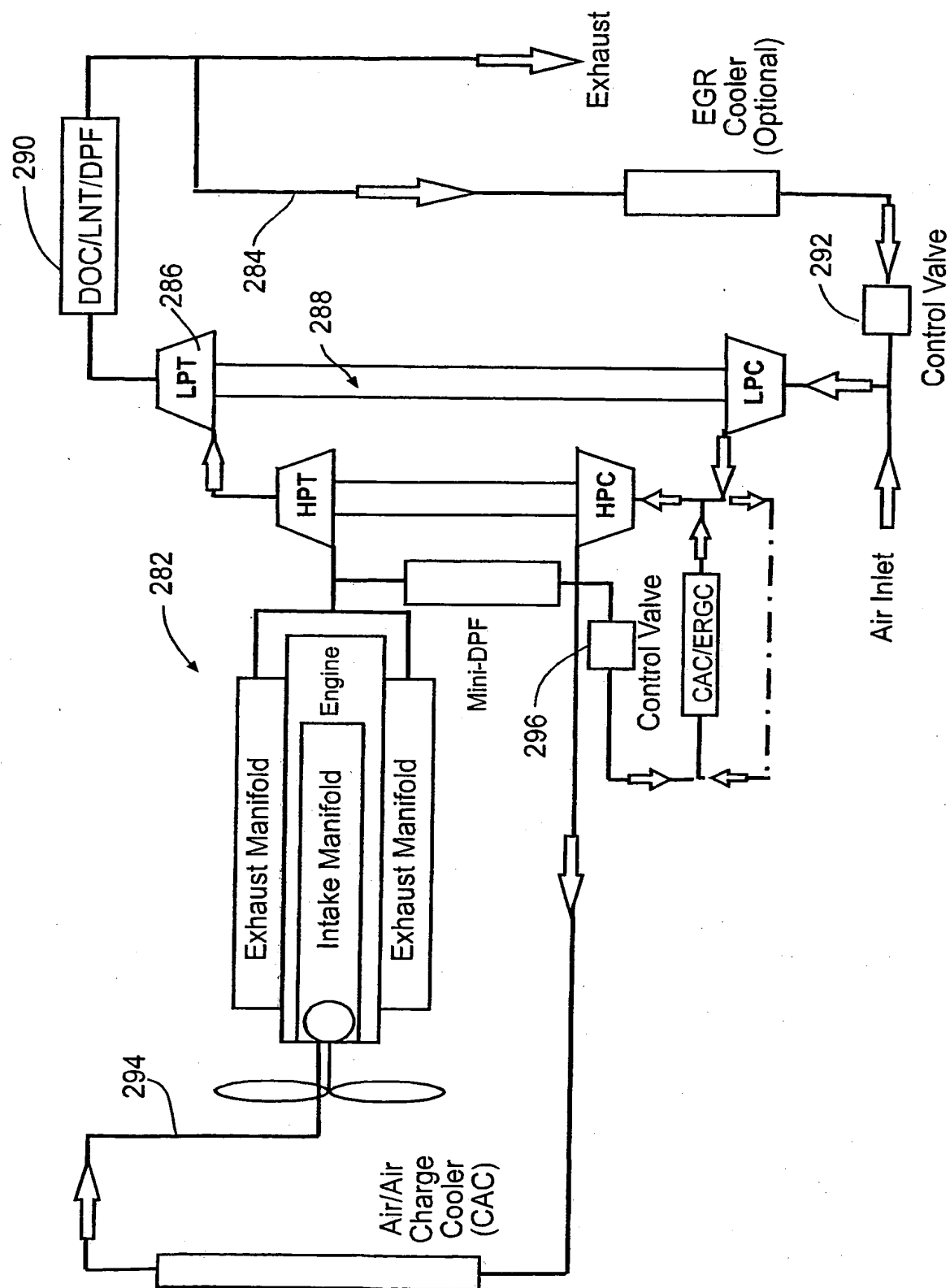


Fig. 12

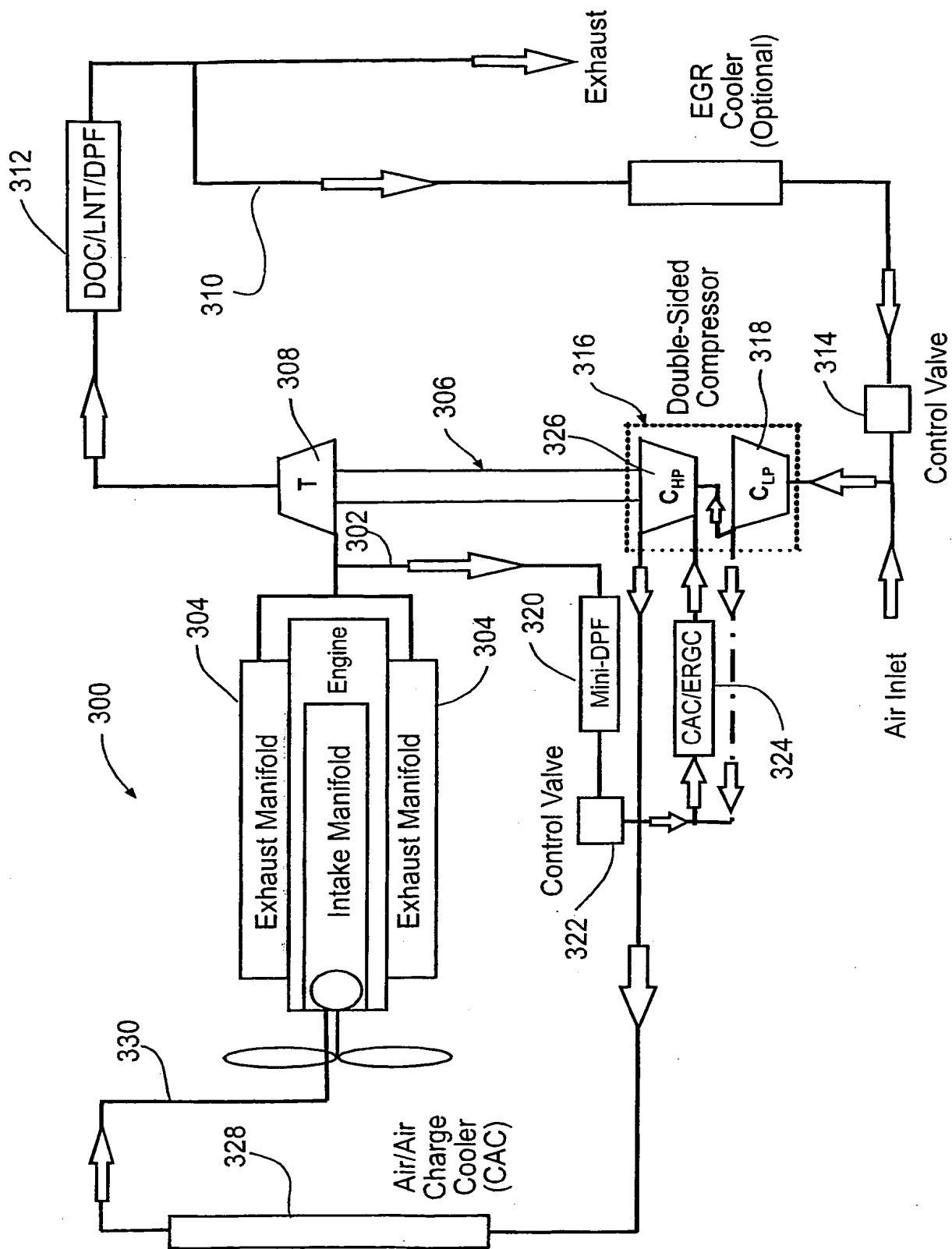


Fig. 13

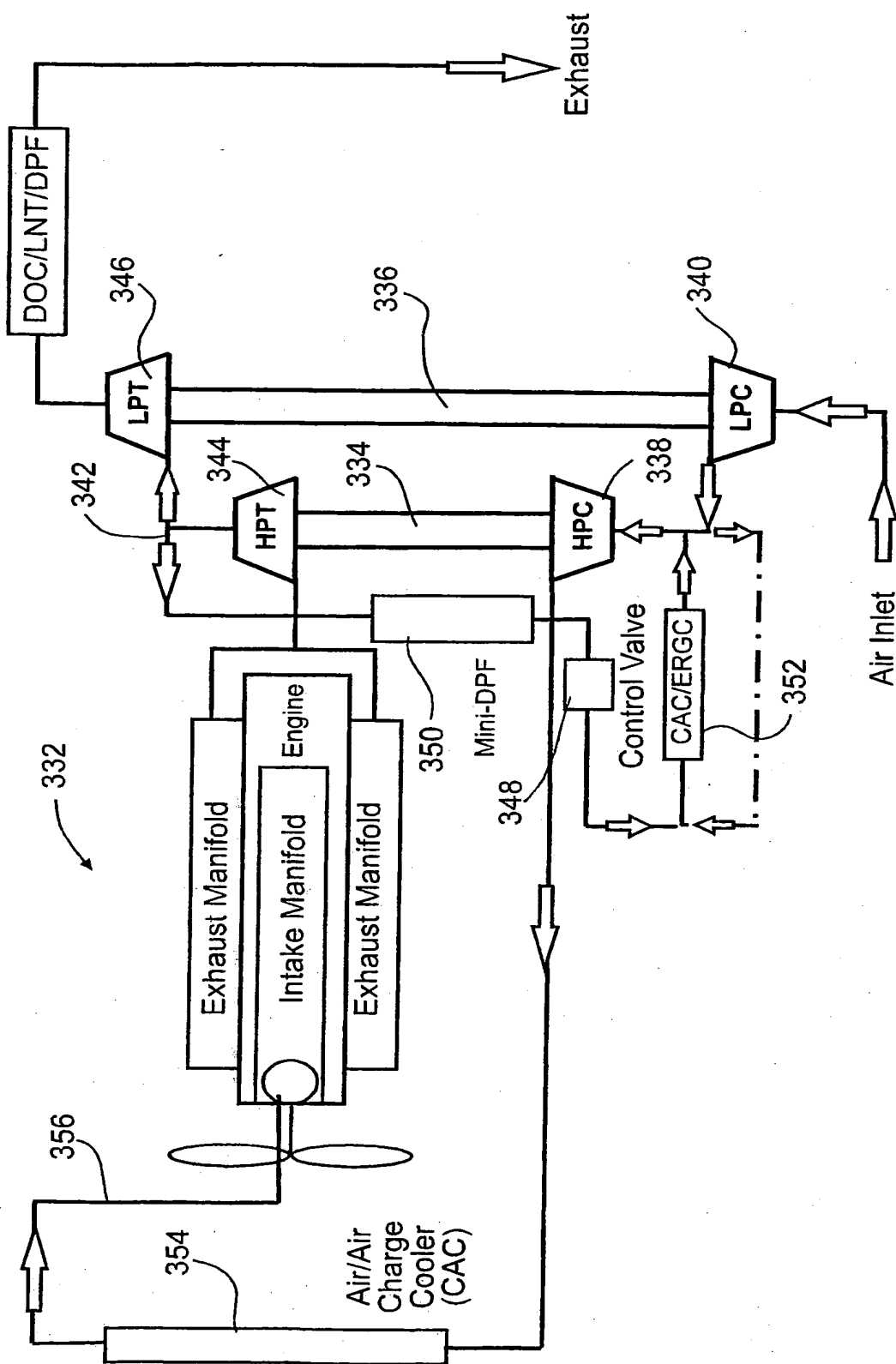


Fig. 14

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 03/36065

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 F02M25/07 F02B37/007 F02B37/013

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 F02M F02B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	EP 1 186 767 A (TOYOTA MOTOR CO LTD) 13 March 2002 (2002-03-13) column 3, line 39 - column 6, line 49; figures	4-8
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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